

# Yudhvir Sethi strongly defends shopkeepers, slams JMC over unjustified drive in Purani Mandi

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a people-centric stand, BJP Senior Leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, came out in strong support of the shopkeepers and traders of Purani Mandi, condemning the anti-encroachment drive by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

The sudden and harsh action by the Jammu Municipal Corporation during the festive season has drawn widespread criticism from the local business community, who accused JMC of harassment and selective targeting.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi minced no words while addressing the issue. "Jammu is my city, and I will not allow its soul-the heritage bazaars-to be attacked under the guise of regulation, especially during Hindu festivals. I had spoken directly with the JMC Commissioner and made it clear that no action should be taken without prior consultation with the Bazaar Association President," he said while interacting with aggrieved shopkeepers.

He questioned the timing and intent behind the drive. "The festive season is not a



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi leading protest with shopkeepers of Purani Mandi.

time for demolition and disruption. It's a time when shopkeepers, many of whom are small-scale traders, earn their living. These unannounced actions appear to be deliberate and suspicious, especially when targeted at Hindu-majority areas. Is there a deeper agenda behind this?" he asked. Yudhvir Sethi accused certain JMC employees of overstepping their mandate and spreading fear and chaos. "This is not governance. This

is bullying of honest shopkeepers and citizens. I will not allow it. If the JMC needs to regulate, let them do it respectfully and lawfully - by involving local leadership and market presidents," he added.

He issued a stern warning to the officials saying, "If such actions are repeated without coordination, I, as the elected MLA and public representative, will intervene firmly. These shopkeepers made me their MLA, and I will stand by

them, come what may."

MLA Sethi demanded that any future action must be carried out in the presence of the Bazaar Association President and the MLA.

"Jammu's old city is not just a market, it's our heritage. Every small shop, every trader here carries forward our culture and economy. Hurting them is like hurting Jammu itself," he said emotionally.

He also emphasized that a full inquiry must be launched into whether the drive was politically motivated or executed under any influence.

"If this is a conspiracy against the Hindu festivals and sentiments of the people, it will not be tolerated. I will take this matter to the highest level."

Calling for administrative maturity and coordination, he urged the JMC to adopt a people-first approach.

"Jammu Smart City is not just about development of roads and buildings, it's about protecting livelihoods and respecting the people who give

life to the city," he asserted.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi concluded with a strong message, "No such drive will be allowed again without consensus. The trust of the people of Jammu is my top priority. I will ensure that justice is done and that no poor or hardworking trader is made to suffer due to bureaucratic high-handedness."

The shopkeepers and traders of Purani Mandi expressed heartfelt appreciation for MLA Yudhvir Sethi's timely intervention and unwavering support. Many of them hailed his visit as a morale booster, stating that his presence gave them the courage to voice their grievances openly.

They praised him for standing by them during a crucial time and protecting their interests when they felt unheard by the administration. Several local businessmen remarked that his assurance brought a sense of relief, and they now feel confident that their concerns will be addressed with seriousness and fairness.

# CCI felicitates Ladakh LG, BJP leaders



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta speaking at a programme.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a function held at Chamber House, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu felicitated Kavinder Gupta, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, along with prominent BJP leaders including, Yudhvir Sethi (MLA), Surinder Bhagat (MLA), and Ashok Kaul (General Secretary, BJP).

While welcoming the chief guest, Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber, expressed confidence that under the leadership of Kavinder Gupta, the bonds between the people of Jammu, Ladakh, and Kargil would strengthen further. He recalled the distinguished services of Kavinder Gupta in various capacities such as

Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Speaker of the J&K State Legislative Assembly, and Deputy Chief Minister of J&K State.

Arun Gupta acknowledged the increased responsibilities now shouldered by Kavinder Gupta as the LG of Ladakh and urged him to take up the pressing issues faced by the people of Jammu with the Union Government for their timely resolution.

In his brief address, Kavinder Gupta thanked the Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the felicitation. He expressed hope that the Chamber, being the voice of the Jammu business community, would foster stronger coordination between traders of Jammu and their counter-

parts in Kargil and Leh.

Kavinder Gupta emphasized his priority for the rapid development of tourism in the Ladakh region for the welfare of the people of Leh and Kargil. He also announced efforts to initiate the Amarnath Yatra route from Ladakh starting next year and highlighted the Zojila Tunnel connectivity project as a top priority.

The event was also attended by senior members of the Chamber including Anil Gupta (Sr. Vice President CCI), Rajeev Gupta (Jr. Vice President CCI), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), and other prominent leaders and former office bearers of the Chamber, who graced the occasion with their presence.

# Sat meets Shah, discusses J&K affairs and extends invitation to visit the region



BJP J&K president, Sat Sharma meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Sat Sharma, President of the Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), met with the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The meeting focused on key developments in

Jammu & Kashmir and important organizational matters concerning the region.

During the interaction, Sat Sharma congratulated the Union Home Minister on the successful culmination of Operation Mahadev, which led to the elimination of the terrorists involved in the heinous Pahalgam

attack. He emphasized that the operation marks a significant step forward in the broader Operation Sindoor, aimed at ensuring peace and security in the Union Territory.

He expressed deep appreciation for the continued guidance and firm resolve shown by the Union Home Minister in tackling terrorism and strengthening grassroots governance in J&K.

Sat Sharma also invited Amit Shah to visit Jammu & Kashmir in the near future, noting that his presence would inspire the cadre and reinforce the ongoing development and security efforts in the Union Territory.

The guidance of the Union Home Minister will be inspiring and guiding for all, he added.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid rising tensions along the India-Pakistan border and the resulting humanitarian crisis, several families in Jammu & Kashmir have been severely affected.

In these difficult times, The Akshaya Patra Foundation has emerged as a beacon of hope. Responding swiftly to a special appeal by Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma and local MLAs, the foundation launched immediate relief operations and began distributing the 'Gaurav Hamara Poshan Kit'. Each kit includes essential items such as rice, lentils, rajma (kidney beans), salt, spices, sugar, soap, and soybean oil-enough to help a family meet its nutritional needs for at least one month.

Govind Datt Das, Divisional Head (J&K), Akshaya Patra Foundation, said, "Our aim is not just to alleviate hunger, but to reassure the affected people that they are not alone. For us, every kit is more than a food packet-it is a message of hope." He added that this relief work



Akshaya Patra Foundation member presenting Kits among needies.

has been made possible through the collective support of generous donors and well-coordinated teamwork. So far, nearly 10,000 kits have been distributed, with a target of 25,000 kits in the coming days. Akshaya Patra's dedicated volunteers-many of whom have come from Delhi-NCR and Uttarakhand-are working tirelessly, regardless of scorching heat, torrential rain, or difficult terrain. Travelling for hours on rugged roads with small trucks and manual vehi-

cles, they are reaching the remotest villages. "Sometimes, our volunteers wade through waterlogged paths to deliver food," Shri Das said. "They know that every packet they deliver may mean life to a hungry family. This initiative proves that no crisis can break us when society stands united."

Relief distribution locations include Upper Palanwala, Lower Palanwala, Panjtut, Kotmara, Bhawan Chak, Upper Kotmera, Lower Kotmera, Budhlwal, Lower

Narayana, Upper Narayana, Nandwal, Khor, Dhaleri, Khor Nai Basti, Hamirpur Sidhar, Jattan De Kothe, Pahadi Wala, Dhaleri, Khor Camp, Nai Basti, Padli, Danwal, Chakrama Zone-Khor, Hamirpur Kona, Gurha Manhasa, Deora, Chhamb, Rakh Dhoke, Dotyal, Dhanpur, Mollu, Nakka Chani, Chibe Chak, Taroti, Dalwal, Dalwal Camp, Rakh Malal, Chal Malal, Chal Bhagwan, Dhanwal, PYT Khada, Serh and many more.

In Jammu & Kashmir, Akshaya Patra is actively pursuing the establishment of two centralized kitchens in Jammu and Katra, which will have the capacity to serve mid-day meals to nearly 30,000 children. Through swift and organized relief operations, Akshaya Patra has reaffirmed that the speed of service is indeed the strength of a nation. By delivering thousands of 'Gaurav Hamara Poshan Kits', the foundation ensured that no one-child, elderly, or mother-goes hungry even during times of crisis. We express deep gratitude to the Government, local administration, our donors, and volunteers who made this service possible.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Akshaya Patra stood firm and fed millions. And today, it continues to stand wherever the need arises. The Foundation remains committed to the construction of centralized kitchens in Jammu and Katra to serve the children of the region.

# Tree plantation is act of spiritual & moral responsibility: Civil Society

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Sanskrit Month, Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Police, organized a tree plantation program at the premises of Gharota Police Station.

The event aimed to promote environmental conservation, uphold Sanskrit cultural values, and foster community involvement in ecological preservation.

SP Rural Brijesh Sharma attended the event as the chief guest, accompanied by Tehsildar Bhalval Monika Sharma and Team Jammu Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal as distinguished guests. The dignitaries initiated the plantation by planting saplings and delivered insightful messages emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship.

In his address, SP Brijesh



Police Officers, Trust members and other dignitaries during plantation drive.

Sharma stressed that every individual should commit to planting at least ten trees annually. He highlighted that merely planting trees is not enough; nurturing them is essential.

"Just like raising children, trees need constant care and attention. Our Sanskrit culture has always emphasized living in harmony with nature, and this initiative during Sanskrit Month is

highly commendable," he said, reaffirming the police administration's commitment to public welfare.

Tehsildar Monika Sharma called for making plantation a public movement. "A single sapling can provide countless benefits-clean air, ecological balance, and a better future for coming generations. The 'One Person, One Tree' initiative can inspire widespread participation in envi-

ronmental protection. Efforts like these by Trust are playing a vital role in preserving both nature and the divine Sanskrit language," she said.

Zorawar underscored the deep-rooted cultural significance of trees in Indian traditions. "Trees like Peepal, Banyan, Neem, and Tulsi are considered sacred. Plantation is not just an environmental act, but a

moral and spiritual responsibility that reflects our gratitude towards nature," he noted, praising the Trust's continuous work in cultural upliftment.

President of the Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri, reiterated the commitment to protecting the Sanskrit language, Indian values, and the environment. He described plantation as a sacred act that brings both ecological and spiritual fulfillment, urging everyone to embrace the mantra, "One Tree, A Hundred Lives."

Prominent citizens and social workers, including DSP Akhnoor Varinder Gupta, SHO Sandeep Singh Katoch, Kuldeep Kumar, Pratap Singh, Rajdev Singh, Rakesh Gandotra, Uttam Chand Sharma, Anwar, Vijay Kumar, Bhushan Singh, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Dayal Singh, Lucky Sharma, and several locals actively participated.

# PM's Matru Vandana Yojana is milestone in strengthening maternal healthcare: Rekha Mahajan



Vice President of BJP J&K UT, Rekha Mahajan with women at a programme.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rekha Mahajan, Vice President of BJP Jammu and Kashmir UT, has described the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) as a transformative step toward ensuring better maternal and child healthcare in the Union Territory. She stated that the scheme aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Healthy Mother, Healthy Nation," and plays a critical role in empowering women through financial and nutritional support during pregnancy.

Speaking at a programme, Mahajan highlighted the scheme's significant role in

empowering pregnant and lactating women by providing financial assistance to ensure better health and nutrition.

Mahajan emphasized that the PM Matru Vandana Yojana directly addresses critical challenges faced by expecting and new mothers by offering a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three installments. This financial support encourages timely antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and breastfeeding, which are essential for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. Mahajan stated that the Yojana aligns perfectly with the government's vision of a healthier India and complements other welfare initiatives aimed

at improving the quality of life for women and children.

Rekha Mahajan called upon all eligible women in Jammu and Kashmir to take full advantage of the benefits offered under PMMVY. She assured that the BJP-led administration is committed to ensuring smooth implementation and outreach of the scheme across both urban and rural areas.

Mahajan reiterated that the Prime Minister's Matru Vandana Yojana is a milestone in strengthening maternal healthcare and empowering women, which will have long-term positive impacts on society's overall health and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

# BSNL launches Rs 1 "Freedom Plan" for Prepaid Customers

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on Friday announced its new "Freedom Plan," a promotional prepaid offer that lets subscribers activate unlimited voice calling, 2 GB of high-speed data per day (throttled to 40 kbps thereafter), and 100 SMS/day with a recharge of just Rs 1. The plan runs from August 1 to 31, this year, and is open exclusively to new connections and customers porting in to BSNL in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs.

BSNL is bundling a free SIM card with the Rs 1 recharge under the "Freedom Plan." This ensures zero initial cost for subscribers who join or port in during August month.

This SIM card can be purchased from BSNL CSC's and retail chain of BSNL throughout J&K and Ladakh. To support these offerings,

BSNL J&K Circle has fortified its network infrastructure, rolling out enhanced 4G coverage by deploying Indigenous technology aimed at delivering uninterrupted, high-speed data services even in remote areas. BSNL ensures high-speed 4G connectivity BSNL has upgraded its network infrastructure to provide seamless 4G connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted communication and high-speed data access.

Vijay Kumar Surendra, CGMT, BSNL J&K Circle said, "We are committed to providing reliable and affordable communication services to the public in the most remote areas." Since its inception in 2000, BSNL has expanded its network reach to cover Pan India population. With a strong focus on affordability and innovation, BSNL continues to roll out advanced technologies, including 4G and upcoming 5G services.

blood sugar levels, but the overall well-being of individuals suffering from diabetes. Through a thoughtfully curated blend of Ayurveda, yoga, meditation, naturopathy, and lifestyle counselling, the course helps rejuvenate the body from within.

The focus is on activating the

body's natural healing processes using non-invasive, chemical-free techniques that restore balance and enhance long-term vitality.

Dr. Aishwarya emphasized that Diabetes, often referred to as a silent killer, affects multiple organs and leads to fatigue, nerve damage, vision

problems, kidney dysfunction, and foot pain. She said that while conventional medicine focuses on controlling symptoms, her centre's approach works toward repairing the body at a deeper level. Participants are guided through personalized diabetic diet plans, therapeutic yoga routines, stress-reducing meditation, herbal and detox drinks, mud therapy, foot soaking, and gentle exercises. Each component is aimed at strengthening the immune system, improving insulin sensitivity, and restoring internal organ function. The sessions are further enriched by the expertise of experienced yoga instructor Stanzin Gourmat from Gandhi Nagar, affiliated with the University of Life, who brings nearly a decade of mastery in therapeutic yoga

and mindful movement. Many participants have expressed gratitude for the natural, side-effect-free approach and the personal attention they receive throughout the journey. Several have reported better blood sugar control, improved digestion, reduced dependence on medication, and a newfound sense of well-being.

With lifestyle disorders like diabetes on the rise, Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda offers a much-needed, scientifically-rooted yet natural path to healing. Those seeking a healthier, medicine-free future are encouraged to visit the centre and take the first step toward holistic wellness. For more details and registration, interested individuals may contact the healing centre directly.